

Shaping the heart of Stroud

Note of meeting

Place of meeting Network Rail, Swindon **Date of meeting** 8th May 2015

Present: (List names and roles)

Leonora Rozee Chair of NDP Steering Group

Hugh Barton member of NDP Steering Group

Steve Hurrell Stroud Town Councillor and member of NDP Steering Group

Claire Mahoney Principal Strategic Planner Network Rail

Brief summary of issues discussed

CH explained that her 'planning' role relates to capacity and capability of the network and she provided a plan showing the land in NR's ownership and land leased to others.

LR explained the purpose of the NDP and the stage it had reached (ie draft plan).

SH outlined the background to the issues to be discussed as set out in the agenda to the meeting; ie: accessibility over the railway; future of disused former railway land; upgrading station approach; creation of a town square and improved access to the listed Goods Shed.

The current appearance of Capel's Mill and Merrywalks viaducts was also raised by SH as a STC matter on interest.

Brief summary of outcomes (to include what was agreed/disagreed)

- Access over the railway:** NR currently has no current plans to meet the DDA at Stroud railway station as there is no funding. Funding for such projects is bid for against an assessment of need and priorities. Stroud was 5th on the list of priorities for the last bidding round and only 4 projects have received funding over a 5 year period (there are 4 years to go in this 5 year funding period). Stroud station might be at or near the top of the priorities for the next bidding round. It will be more likely to succeed if backed by
 - Inclusion in the NDP;
 - Identified funding to support the NR bid – funding commitment in the next LTP round add support
 - Alignment of STC/SDC/GCC/GFirst (the LEP)/First Great Western behind the concept
 - A masterplan showing what is proposed for the wider and how the new access fits in with the long term aspirations for the area
- Disused former railway land** this relates to the redundant railway land to the north-east of the main line which is currently overgrown. SH suggested part might be used as additional parking or replacement parking from the station forecourt. HB suggested there might be some development potential to help fund a new town square as referred to above. CM advised that NR would be open to considering any options for this land but consideration would need to be given to any potential long term re-use of this land for the provision of local rail services and a whole route assessment would be required before any decision to develop or re-use this land .
- Station approach** SH referred to the previous discussions which have been held relating to the upgrading of the station forecourt and approach and tabled the plans done at the time. He also referred to the support of Ecotricity to the concept. CM noted that there was no funding available for such a scheme. The National Stations Improvement Programme generally provides funds for station facilities improvements but this is unlikely to include visual enhancements. Others who

would ultimately need to be involved would Be Caroline Fone NR Property Manager and Amanda Hoyland from the route enhancement team but not until a workable and funded scheme available. CM provides a free advice service but any more detailed involvement by NR would be chargeable.

4. **New town square** some of the land required is leased by NR on 90 year leases. Any enabling development would be dependent on widening the development area to include the disused railway land (see above). A masterplan is needed to assess feasibility and viability and establish a business case. The masterplan should look at the whole of the railway area. The cost of such a process is likely to be at least £30k. NR might be willing to help fund such a masterplan in partnership with others.
5. **Viaducts** SH raised the concern of the TC that these viaducts look neglected with vegetation growing our of the brickwork and are very unsightly. CM will pass on the concerns to the appropriate person with a request that they get back to the TC on what is being planned for maintenance of these structures.

Action	By whom	By when
Investigate the development of a masterplan for the railway area.	LR/HB	ASAP
Discuss the LTP option with GCC highways.	LR/HB	Meeting on 11.5.15
Provide NR ownership plan	CM	Done on 8.5.15 ASAP
Pass on STC concerns about viaducts	CM	